

Report : Public Hearing on Social Security Schemes

District : Palamu

Block : Chhatarpur

Venue : Chhatarpur block campus

Date : 2.08.2011

Public hearing was organized on 2nd August 2011, in the premises of Chhatarpur block office. This hearing was organized by non-governmental organization, Vikas Sahyog Kendra and assisted by Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, under the regular monitoring of the State Advisor to the Commissioner to the Supreme Court (PUCL Vs. Union of India and Others, WP (civil) 196/2001). The State Advisor to the Commissioner of the Supreme Court, Mr. Balram was the chief guest of the meeting. Deputy Commissioner of Palamau, Mrs Puja Singhal and Deputy Development Commissioner Anil Kumar Singh were presiding the whole process.

Following schemes were addressed during public hearing:

- 1. Public Distribution System**
- 2. Social Security Schemes**
- 3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schme (MNREGS)**
- 4. Integrated Child Development Scheme (Aanganwadi Service)**
- 5. Mid Day Meal.**

1. Public Distribution System

- In the Public hearing out of 175 complains, 69 were related to PDS. During the hearing on the issue of Public distribution system, so many irregularities in the implementation were shared by the community. DC Palamau ordered Chhatarpur SDO to cancel the license of all related ration dealers at the moment. According to this, Chhatarpur SDO cancelled dealership of five alleged dealers. DC Palamau directed SDO to submit Action Taken Report on this matter till the end of this month.
- During the hearing, it was found that in place of 33.500kg and 35kg ration, beneficiaries were receiving only 30kg. In some cases beneficiaries were receiving only 36kg ration for two months (it means only 18 KG per month). MO clarified that related ration dealer had received less against his allotment. Then DC Palamau stated that they must refuse procuring less quantity of ration. It is their responsibility to distribute accurate quantity which they have entitled by the government. It was decided that concerned officials monitor distribution of ration for July and August 2011 and submit the report in current month. In the issue of keeping ration card by dealer, DC directed to Sub-divisional Officer (SDO) of Chhatarpur and DSO Sadar Vipin Oraon to take action against alleged

dealer within one week and inform her regarding this action. If the allegation found true then cancel the license and handover this responsibility to Self Help Group immediately. She also directed to the new elected Mukhiyaas to monitor this distribution process, verify them and sign on distribution register after completion of distribution work.

2. Social Security Schemes

- DC Puja Singhal stated entitlement of social security schemes. She said about the Viklang pension that now the age for this entitlement is from 18 to 59. Simultaneously the age of widow pension is from the age of 18 to 59. From the age of 60 to 79, the person is entitled for old age pension and from the age of 80 the person is entitled for Rs 700 per month as a pension. She ordered to officials to cover beneficiaries according to these entitlements under these schemes.
- DC announced that under pension schemes list of beneficiary up to September 2011 will be available online. A campaign will be held after 15th August 2011 and name of the eligible candidates will be added on the spot. On the complain of unpaid pension for the period of March, April, May and June 2011, SDO clarified that all the amount of pension related draft has been drawn in the favor of beneficiaries recently. He advised the community to check their bank account. On the issue of postal department related complain, Shri Balram, State Advisor to the Commissioner of Supreme Court assured to the villagers that on 3rd August 2011 he will discuss the matter with the senior officials of postal department. Meanwhile, DC announced that payment of pension amount will be done in the bank account of the beneficiary. All the formalities regarding this will be completed up to September 2011.

3. Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS)

- DC Palamau ordered to clear all the due payment after checking the Muster Role under MNREGS work. She ordered to take action against the culprits of nonpayment and said, it should be assured that all the labour must be paid their unpaid payment with proper compensation. The Block Development Officers will be responsible for this work and she declared the dateline up to 18th August 2011 for the same. On the issue of the taking long time for clearance of check in post office, she said that post office department should be liable for this loss of a beneficiary, so should be done something as compensation by the postal department. DC Palamau also assured that MNREGA Help Centre will be strengthened. She directed to BDO to make proper arrangement in the block office premises for the Help Centre.

4. Integrated Child Development Scheme (Aanganwadi Sewa)

- During the public hearing various irregularities were presented in the Social Audit Report. Mr James Herenj of Bisaypur village under Hulsam Panchayat, the beneficiaries has complained that many of them have not got the Take Home Ration (THR) in proper quantity. They receive only 3 kg in place of 12 kg since last 6 months. Shri Balram, has taken this issue very seriously and said this is the matter of contempt of Supreme Court's orders. DC has also taken this issue very seriously and ordered on the spot to BDO

Chhatarpur to make visit to this centre. She also instructed to resolve such issues from all 5 panchayats of the block. She also directed to BDO that after proper inspection take immediately action against the culprits and report to her about the action. She also ordered to CDPO to submit visit report of concerned Supervisors regarding this centre.

5. Mid Day Meal (MDM)

- Shri Anil Kumar Singh, DDC, Palamu presided over the second session of the Public hearing. There was a case of non-payment to Heera Devi, a member of Saraswati Vahini of a village. BEEO was directed to ensure the payment of Heera Devi.
- Irregularities in cooking of mid day meal at Middle School Salaiya was reported. In Kerkikhurd Primary School Mid day meal is not provide since last one year at. Shri Balram taken these as a serious matter. This is taken as violation of directions of the Supreme Court. He suggested immediate action on this complain. Mid day meal should not be stopped even in the holidays and summer vacation in the schools located in draught area like Palamu. Then DDC directed to BEEO to regularize the mid day meal. He suggested to the newly elected PRI members (Mukhiya) to write a letter to the concerned officials on such type of complains. He assured that the action will be taken.

Meeting with District level officials

District : Palamu

Venue : DRDA Hall, Medininagar

Date : 3.08.2011

As a follow up action of the Public hearing meeting held on 2nd August 2011, a meeting was organized with the district level officials of Palamu. This meeting was held in the hall of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Medininagar. Shri Balram, State Advisor to the Commissioner of Supreme Court presided over the meeting.

First of all, Shri Balram shared his objectives of Palamu visit. He said that this visit is a part of his regular monitoring under the guidelines given by the Honorable Supreme Court regarding PDS, MDM, ICDS, Social security scheme etc.

During the meeting, on the basis of yesterday's public hearing report, Mr. Balram discussed about the irregularities of mid day meal in various schools of the district. DSE, Palamu assured that after visiting to such schools, he will make proper arrangement to regularize mid day meal.

On the issue of ICDS, District Social Welfare Officer J.K. Mishra said that out of the 32 sanctioned post; only 18 supervisors are posted; simultaneously, out of 11 sanctioned post, only 3 CDPOs are working. He accepted that these affects monitoring of the services provided under ICDS and hence its implementation. Shri Balram suggested him to ensure 10 visits in block level per month. To stop the debt system in purchasing of ration materials immediately in Aanganwadi

centres. For this, a committee should be formed immediately and visit to such Aanganwadi centres. After proper physical verification, report to us as well as the senior officials of the district. He assured to district officials that he will discuss the matter with state level government officials about the problem of money for ICDS so that an advance will be available like MDM.

Civil Surgeon Dr Ganesh Prasad said that the Mamata Vahan will be running from 15th August 2011. Where there is the problem of backlog, they are collecting the report from MOIC. Shri Balram suggested him to make proper monitoring system to visit the MTCs of the district. Dr Prasad said that the free food facility to the patient mother of the new born will be given from 15th August 2011. In case of normal delivery, the patient will be given 3 days free food facility and in case of caesarian it will be for 7 days.

On the issue of PDS, BDO Chhatarpur said that on the allegation of black marketing of PDS ration, an FIR has been lodged against a ration dealer. Shri Balram suggested him to make arrangement to run PDS shop in public building. If such building is not available then hire a building for the purpose. Mikhiya will verify the ration distribution. He suggested to identify the Ghost Ration cards. All PTG members must be covered under Antyodaya Yojna. In case of the violation of Supreme Court Guidelines by PDS shop the license of ration dealer should be cancelled and the new license should be given to SHG or Cooperatives groups. Shri Vipin Oraon, DSO has assured to State Advisor to form a control room in district level monitor the blocks about the procurement quantity of rations.

On the issue of social security schemes, Shri Balram suggested officials to do the survey of beneficiaries up to 5th August 2011. On the issue of National Family Benefit Schemes, he suggested to give benefit within three weeks of the incident. If the post offices are not playing their role properly or demanding bribe for the check, an FIR should be lodged against those culprits.

On the MNREGS Mr. Balram suggested do plantation in rainy season in coordination with Forest department. Nursery should be developed under MNREGS. In the meeting DRDA Director directed BDO Chhatarpur to submit the verification report in the case of nonpayment of 70 labour of Bara Panchayat under MNREGS work.

In the evening Shri Balram visited the Malnutrition Treatment Centre (MTC), Chainpur in the presence of Civil Surgeon, BDO, SDO and other officials. In this MTC, three children were present for better health care services. The name of child was- Beauty, 11 months, Nurisaba, 9 months and Kiran Kumari, 11 months. Pushplata Kumari, ANM of this centre said that the awareness level is very low regarding the MTC among the community.

Shri Balram also visited a MNREGS work site situated in Dumri village of Bhargama panchayat. Miss Ruby Kumari, BDO, Chainpur was also present during this visit. After observing the work site, he suggested to BDO ensure some basic provisions for labours as guided under MNREGA.